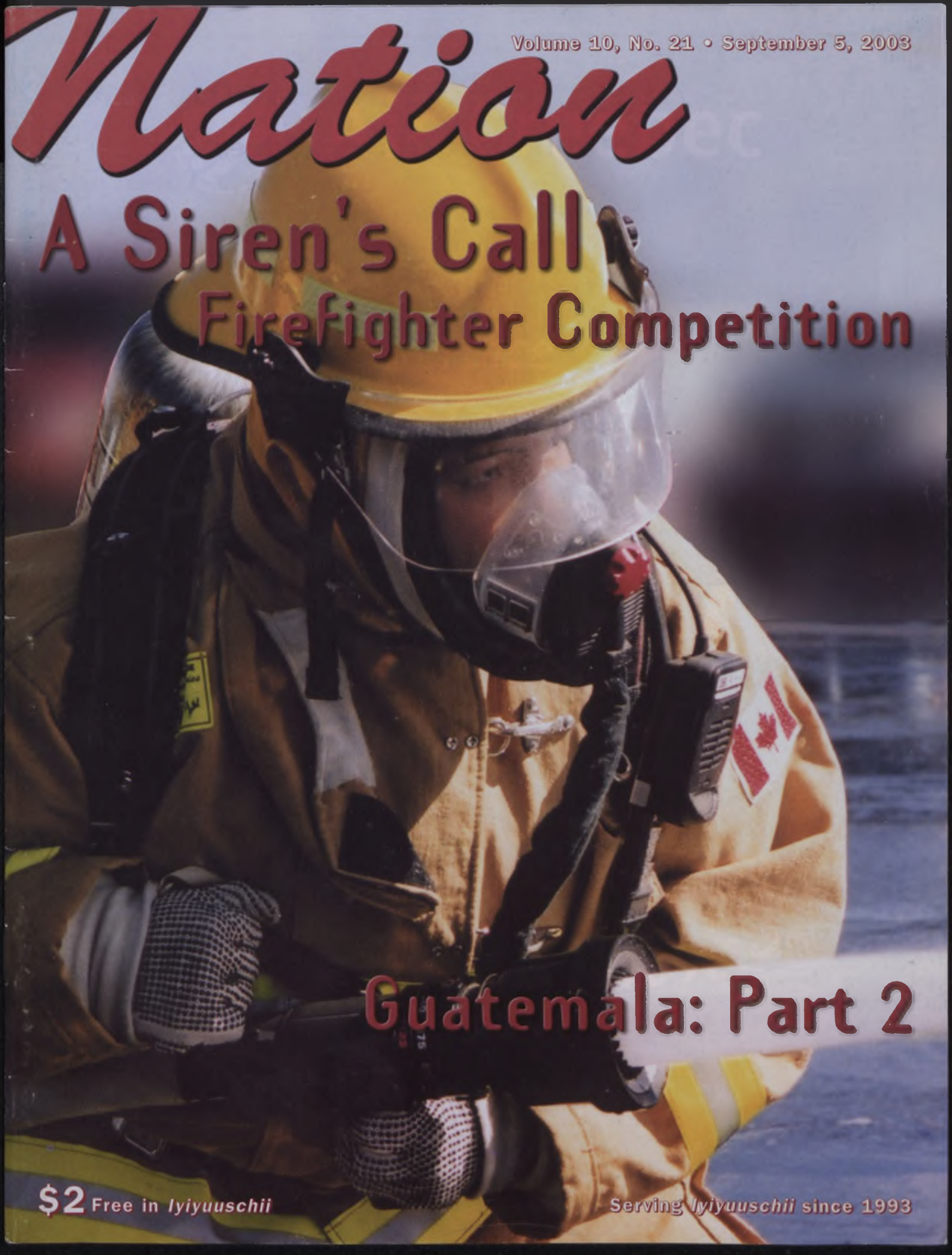
Volume 10, No. 21 • September 5, 2003

Nation

A Siren's Call

Firefighter Competition



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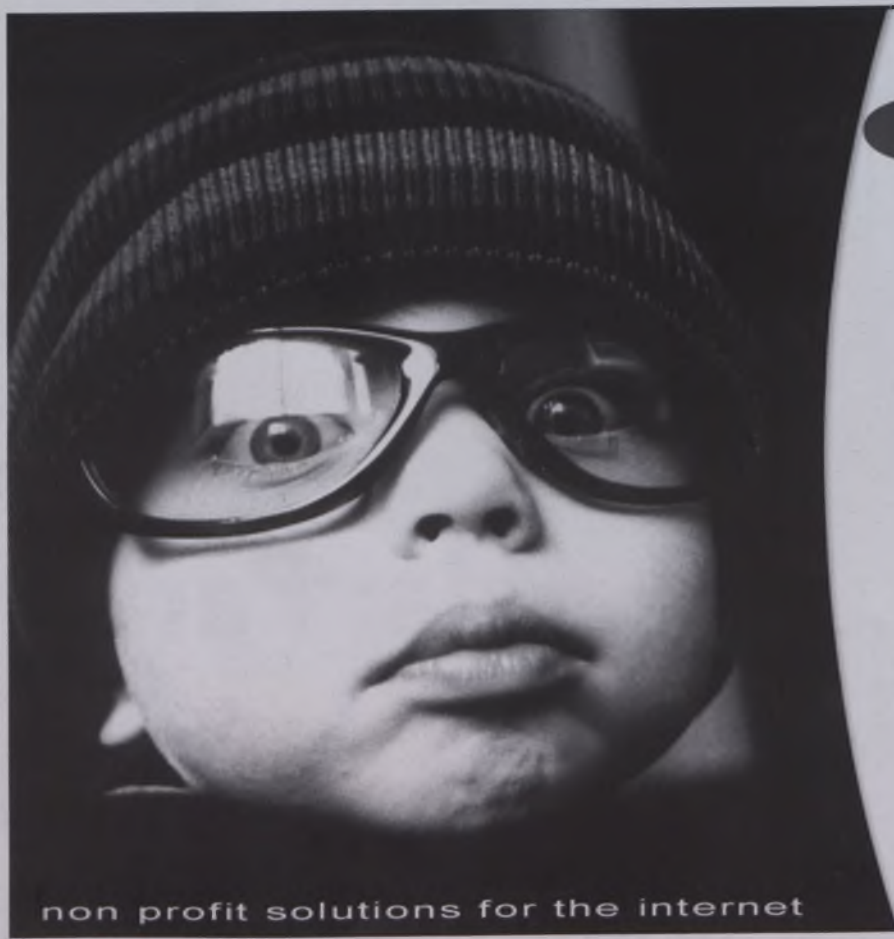

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NEIL DIAMOND

LET'S END THE WASTE

It's good to be back. I've been in South America for the last few weeks, arriving home only to travel to Ottawa for another week.

Traveling back was a trip and a half. The airplane I was supposed to come back on developed problems with its landing gear. After a couple of days in the airport they decided to send us home by different routes. I guess these types of problems are included in a trip to a Third World country as this was the second time I had been stranded in an airport waiting to fly out.

What I didn't expect was that I would have problems when I hit the United States. My diverted route took me from Bolivia to Argentina and then on to JFK airport in New York, just in time to be diverted to Newark, New Jersey as a result of the blackout that affected five states and Ontario. It meant waiting in lines for hours just to get a hotel room and some food. Then it meant more waiting just to find out if we could make it back to Montreal. Given the fact that my traveling companion was supposed to be back in Montreal on Tuesday and I on Wednesday, only to arrive in late Saturday, wasn't the best of worlds.

Then I thought about the blackout and how the increased demands of power lead to it. I remembered when I was in a developing country I marveled at the energy saving tools that we rarely see in North America. I started noticing when I went into a washroom in Ecuador and the lights came on it was an energy-efficient light bulb. I started noticing that they were in use everywhere. It was the same in Peru and in Bolivia.

I used to smile walking to my hotel room at El Presidente in La Paz, Bolivia. Motion sensors would turn the lights on ahead of me and turn them off behind me. It seemed ironic that I felt I was in a Star Trek type of futuristic world when I was in a poor country.

I guess the people in those countries can't afford the wasteful ways of North Americans and their use, or abuse, of power.

With the blackout I would have to say we can't either. We've tried deregulation and look where it has lead. We have put the regulatory powers firmly in the hands of the provinces and we have seen the results.

I think it's time for a National Energy Board to step in and impose minimum regulations and standards concerning energy efficiency and upkeep of equipment. Having the provinces handle this alone when the majority of them have crown electrical utilities pumping money into government coffers is a conflict of interest that will have us all wondering why the lights didn't turn off sooner.

A true energy efficiency program that includes business and homeowners alike will give us some breathing space in order to upgrade our equipment. The ice storm in Quebec showed this was needed and the blackout just emphasizes that warning.

Plus if we do this some of our rivers may run free just a little longer.

By Will Nicholls

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Firefighter at competition in Waswanipi

Photo: Danielle Valade
Design: Mona Laviolette

Rez notes

SONNY ORR

Good ol' St. Nicotine

I could hardly wait until I unwrapped my 13th birthday gift from my mother. Her eyes glowed proudly as I held up the can of Export tobacco and Vogue rolling papers. Yes, I was a man now and could smoke in public. My mother sent me off to my grandfather Ernie's house, where tobacco was smoked with a passion. Everybody smoked rollies and pipes were reserved for the ancient ones and deep thinkers in the crowd. The ciggies that were wrapped by machine and available by the pack were the choice of the "in" group, where Brylcreme was sometimes substituted for bear grease and Elvis was the freshly crowned prince of rock 'n roll.

I marveled as numshum managed to grab exactly the right amount of 'baccy into his palm and flipped over to the waiting Vogue. Magically, the cigarette appeared and the match blazed while numshum asked me to follow suit. Wow, that took him about three seconds and one hand, whoa...

As I tore off the delicate paper, trying not to make it stick to my sweaty palm, I dabbed an ounce or two and managed to tear the paper. "Tch, tch tch, ... like this" numshum demonstrated again, this time under five seconds. I wondered if he too had troubles to roll his first smoke and pondered whether I should just resort to the pipe, since it was much easier to handle.

Nope, I gotta smoke and some rolling had to be done. I tried with a fervor and managed to roll a lumpy stick. I tried out the new (heavily drenched with lighter fuel) Zippo with a flare and lit the first hand rolled cigarette I ever made. Smoke gasped back out and I managed to stifle the urge to barf while managing to remain cool, enjoying the dank smell of thousands of chemicals that constitute tobacco in its burnt form. Yes, I am a smoker of the cigarette. I have a vice that came from the special relationship with a plant that our people have traded for thousands of years before Europeans interpreted and related tobacco to the works of the devil.

Now it is the ultimate Montezuma's revenge, as the addiction of tobacco has

NEIL DIAMOND

harmed many in its path and brought billions to a few. How times have changed. Today, smoking is seen as a health hazard and rightly so. Tobacco is a powerful drug that should be treated with respect and used cautiously, or great harm will come to you. This is the way we looked at tobacco back in the day, something that brought you into a higher level of age groups. You could walk with the men with your hands in your pockets and a cigarette glowing from your mouth. The smoking games and the way it drifted around was enjoyable.

Not today. Tobacco is now smuggled and used as political bargaining chip. Health and use of remedial drugs goes up and the use of the puffer escalate with the sedentary lifestyle of modern day mankind. Sometimes, I wonder if I'm doing the right thing when I begrudgingly say yes to one who is still young (less than 20) and hand over my du Maurier. Perhaps I have changed too, as my average pack lasts nearly a week or two. Will it make a difference if I enjoy once or twice a day without fighting off the urge to smoke insistently? Who knows? Maybe I still have respect for tobacco and my body and the people around me.

The Nation
is published every two weeks
by **Beesum Communications**

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Danielle Valade

THANKS TO: Air Creebec

WHERE TO REACH US:
POSTMASTER:
5505 St-Laurent, #3018
Montreal, Qc., H2T 1S6

Please address correspondence to:
The Nation Production Office
5647 Parc Ave. P.O. Box 48036
Montreal, Canada H2V 4S8

Editorial & Ads
Tel.: 514-272-3077, Fax: 514-278-9914

Ads- Val d'or-Chibougamau Region
Tel.: 514-285-8986

The Nation Head Office
P.O. Box 151, Chisasibi, Qc. J0M 1E0

E-Mail Address:
Editorial: nation@beesum.ca
Ads: sales@beesum-communications.com
Classifieds:
beesum@beesum-communications.com
Web: www.beesum-communications.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS
Individuals & Institutions: $45
Abroad: Individuals: $70 U.S.
Abroad: Institutions: $85 U.S.
Payable to Beesum Communications
Printed By Payette & Simms

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Publication Mail #40015005
ISSN #1206-2642

The Nation is a member of:
the James Bay Cree Communications Society, Circle of Aboriginal Controlled Publishers, Canadian Magazine Publishers Assn,
Quebec Community Newspaper Assn,
Canadian Community Newspapers' Assn
Les Hebdos Sélect du Québec

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Canada Magazine Fund to our editorial costs

ROBERT WEISTCHE-AGAINST ALL ODDS

There comes a time when a leader must take a stand. The Chief of Waskaganish, Robert Weistche, did just that when he opposed the signing of the Paix des Braves a year and a half ago.

Needless to say, this was not a popular stance in the eyes of the Cree Grand Council (CGC) or the Quebec government.

The deal ended up being signed, but his position lead to Weistche being alienated by most of the other nine community leaders, which made for a very tense situation at times.

"My position (on the Rupert River diversion) still remains the same, I still believe that there's a glimmer of hope that the diversion will never go through, but the environmental review process is under way, so we'll have to wait and see what happens," he said.

Recently, Weistche was re-elected as Chief of Waskaganish to a second four-year term. Due to the local election code, this will be his last term in office.

"It's a real honour and blessing to be re-elected as chief. I think the youth have come out and shown their support. They've come out and expressed more of an interest, and a concern about the state of affairs concerning our nation, and they want to get involved."

In all, he has been in politics for over 12 years, including a stint as chairman of the Cree School Board (CSB). After his term is up, he's not sure what he wants to do, but he is not ruling out furthering his political portfolio.

"Four years is a long time, I'll wait and see how I feel after this term," he stated.

Billy Diamond, who ran against him in the election, has been Chief of this community before. Weistche felt that his time was up, "I respect the man, he's done a lot for our community in the past, but there comes a time when people look for new things, new ideas, and try to inspire hope, and I think Billy's style wasn't working anymore."

By Steve Bonspiel

The Annual General Assembly (AGA) was to be held in Waskaganish in August, but was postponed due to the passing of Grand Chief Ted Moses' son. Rumours began to circulate that the Cree Grand Council (CGC) was trying to move the AGA to Mistissini.

One of the concerns was a lack of accommodations for the visitors. "We've arrived at an agreement where we'll be able to accommodate everyone," said Weistche.

"Maybe it's because the diversion will have such a huge impact on us, that they weren't sure they wanted to come here in case there was trouble."

For the immediate future, he wants to focus on bettering the lives of the community members. "Every reserve is afflicted with social conditions that are sometimes beyond our comprehension. I want to see our young people have more opportunity and hope. I want to work towards stopping the abuse of alcohol and drugs."

This will be much easier because the Chief is an avid fitness enthusiast, and leads a healthy lifestyle.

"The young people are able to associate with me because they see me kayaking on the river, skiing on the river, and participating in other sports. They feel they can relate (to me)."

Promoting family fitness activities, healthier eating habits, and sports are a huge priority. He'd also like to see cross-cultural exchanges and more canoe brigades, not only in Waskaganish, but across the Cree Nation as well.

Developing the community by working together is the key if Waskaganish wants to move ahead in the 21st century. One of the things Weistche is looking at is the restructuring of WEDCO (Waskaganish Economic development corporation).

"I think it's important that we try to set this up, by encouraging more joint business venture development in the region. We will also try to access more training and development opportunities for our people through business proposals that can be submitted under the Cree Human Resource Department (CHRD), and the Local Management Board (LMB)."

When Weistche came to power in 1999, Waskaganish was around $12 million in debt. These days almost $3 million has been paid back, thanks to greater accountability, and a tighter budget.

A long-term problem Weistche would like to see solved is the status of the Cree from Moose Factory. They were left out of the voting process last year to elect the Chief of the Grand Council. In that election, Ted Moses narrowly defeated Mathew Mukash, something which could have been different if the Moose Cree were allowed to participate.

Their status is up in the air as to how much compensation they are entitled to regarding the benefits gained from the Paix des Braves. They didn't participate in discussions on the agreement, nor did they have a say in what went into it. Legally, its said they aren't entitled to anything at all.

Weistche thinks that this is wrong, and he feels that there is room for discussion, especially since a large number of the Moose Cree are originally from Waskaganish.

"I'm open to sitting down and having a discussion with their leaders, and find out what they represent. When you're born Cree, you're always Cree and your rights should stay with you, no matter where you go."

In four years time, Waskaganish will have a new leader. Weistche believes that as in life, all things must come to an end, and he is confident that the youth will lead his community into a new era, with their heads held high.

"I believe there are a lot of up and coming young people who are acquiring the education, and the skills that they need to be able to do a good job. I'm confident somebody will be able to do the job, and they might not even know it right now," he remarked.

MEMORANDUM

This will serve to inform you that the **ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY** which was scheduled for August 19, 20, 21, 2003 in Waskaganish has officially been postponed.

The new dates are September 9, 10, 11, 2003 in Waskaganish.

Please take note that the Special General Assembly on Cree Governance will be rescheduled to a further date at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the GCCEI/CRA.

For further information, please contact the CRA head office in Nemaska at **(819) 673-2600 or by fax at (819) 673-2606.**

G.C.C.E.A

Thank you for your attention.

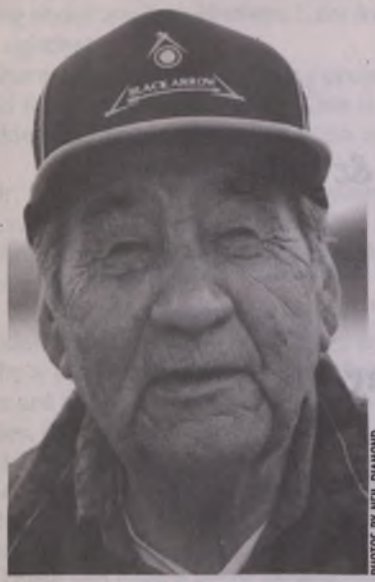
C.R.A. A.R.C.

On behalf of the Cree School Board, the Post Secondary Student Services team would like to wish the best of success to all new and continuing students. With determination and perseverance, you can achieve your goals.

On behalf of the community members of Mistissini, the Chief and Council we would like to wish all returning students the best of luck during the new school year

PLAY IT SMART
STAY IN SCHOOL

International day of the world's indigenous peoples, 2003....wha?



PHOTOS BY NEIL DIAMOND

How many people knew that August 9th was the International Day for the World's Indigenous Peoples? And how many people are aware that at this moment we are almost at the end of the International Decade for the World's Indigenous People? Do not confuse it with the National Aboriginal Day that is celebrated in Canada on June 21st! In 1990, the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed 1993 the Year of Worlds Indigenous People. In 1993, the assembly proclaimed the International Decade of the Worlds Indigenous People, starting officially on December 10th, 1994. The goal of the Decade is to strengthen international cooperation for solving problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education and health. Its theme is "Indigenous people: Partnership in action." The date of August 9th was chosen by the Indigenous Peoples themselves, because it commemorates the first UN meeting of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, held in 1982.

Do not be surprised that it is not widely known or celebrated. Apparently the only ones in Canada who made any mention of it was the federal government in Ottawa. They organized a day of activitites in keeping with this years theme, the transmission of traditional knowledge using new technology. From 11 am to 8:30 pm., there were a range of activities such as booths

relating to the theme of the transfer of traditional knowledge to youth using new technologies and other means, topics such as Aboriginal language preservation, traditional skills training, high-tech skills training in the spread of traditional knowledge and the use of non-traditional fora to preserve and present traditional knowledge were covered, as well as an hour of storytelling by an elder.In 1994, the General Assembly decided that the International Day of the World's Indigenous People shall be observed on August 9 every year during the International Decade of the World's Indigenous people. Which means that next year will be the final year of this celebration as the decade comes to an end.

By Tsa

Waskaganish Mobile Treatment Centre Evacuated

A traditional healing centre located on an island at the mouth of the Nottaway River 12 miles from Waskaganish was evacuated on August 22 after a heavy storm that flooded a number of the lodges.

The centre was formed in collaboration with the Waskaganish wellness centre, and deals with alcohol and drug abuse. It also deals with residential school abuse, and has been operating for the past 12 years.

In all, 31 people were evacuated, 20 of whom were clients.

The cost of damage, helicopter evacuation, loss of supplies, etc was estimated at up to $25,000.

The delay in the program wasn't expected to last longer than a week.

Forest fires quelled near Chisasibi

A forest fire that had been burning for three weeks north of Chisasibi was finally contained with Mother Nature's help.

Heavy rains helped to stamp out the fire, and the water bombers helped to keep it away from the community.

When most of the fire was extinguished, the firefighters were able to move in on foot, and effectively put it out.

The fire was started by lightning in an area known as Goose Bay. It was approximately 20 kilometres long, and 3 kilometres wide.

It never got that close to Chisasibi, according to the Chief firefighter, Archie Moar. But if it had, there is an evacuation plan in place that would see those with breathing problems, and the elders evacuated first, followed by women, children, and lastly, the men.

The reason it didn't make its way towards Chisasibi is because "the wind was on our side," according to Moar. "It helped to keep the fire away, we were always upwind from the fire."

Moar thinks that the drastic change of weather in the past 10 years has something to do with it. The temperature is consistently in the 30s. This is something that concerns him but he knows he can't do anything about it.

The Cree School Board

would like to **wish** all the new & returning **students** throughout the Cree Nation the **best of luck** during the **2003-2004** school year.

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On behalf of the ***Cree Nation of Eastmain***

Best of Luck *to all students with your studies*

Cree Nation of Eastmain

Sincere Condolences to the Moses Family from Chief, Council and Eastmain members.

Cree Nation of Eastmain

Mistissini fish study

There has been an interesting find in Mistissini in recent months, and we're not talking about another Mistissini Lake monster sighting!

There are a couple of ongoing projects called the Mistissini Lake study. One is on speckled trout, and the other is on walleye.

Dr. Louis Bernachez of the Universite de Laval is supervising both studies, but it's the speckled trout study that has people buzzing these days.

It turns out there are two "strands" of speckled trout around the Mistissini area.

"In a lot of species, what we find is there are important differences within the species, so what we found in Mistissini Lake is not all the speckled trout are the same," according to Dylan Fraser, who is a PhD candidate for the Universite de Laval, and is heading the brook trout study.

"These fish have a lot of genetic differences, behavioral differences in how they use the lake, the way they swim around," he said. "There are two different groups, one being in the Rupert River, and the other being in the northeast rivers (Papas, Cheno, Takwa)."

The speckled trout project started in 2000, and the final report is slated to be out at the end of the summer of 2004.

Mistissini Lake Monster sighting

In a related story there was a sighting recently of the infamous Mistissini Monster. Compared to its counterpart, the Loch ness Monster, the Mistissini Monster is a whole lot smaller, and not quite as elusive.

"It looks black, and is about half the size of a car," according to the manager of the lodge in Mistissini, Marc Ladouceur. He was able to watch it until two boats approached, and it disappeared.

Wesley Trapper, who is the assistant manager at the lodge, was able to corroborate the story.

"They say if you don't bother it, it'll never harm anyone," Trapper said. "I wasn't close enough to really see it, I would have needed binoculars.

So the mystery remains, what is the Mistissini Lake monster? Maybe some things should be left undiscovered. Have a nice dip!

Blackout of the century!

Darkness fell over 50 million plus people in six major North American cities on August 14.

It was called the biggest blackout in history and days later they were still trying to trace the exact cause.

The United States blames Canada for it, and vice versa.

Nation Editor-in-Chief Will Nicholls was trying to make his way home after a three weeklong trip to South America. He ended up being diverted to the "last place you want to be on earth: Newark, New Jersey."

Despite the aggravation and wanting to give a piece of his mind to the electrical gods, Nicholls has returned safely to his throne at *The Nation*.

Ernest Webb, who used to work for *The Nation* but now fills his days as a CBC North reporter, was also blacked out while at a training course in Toronto. "I was at the CBC building in Toronto and all of a sudden, the lights went out. Fortunately, we were able to continue our course," he said.

"The feeling in the city was quite festive, a bunch of drummers set up in one corner and just starting beating on their drums."

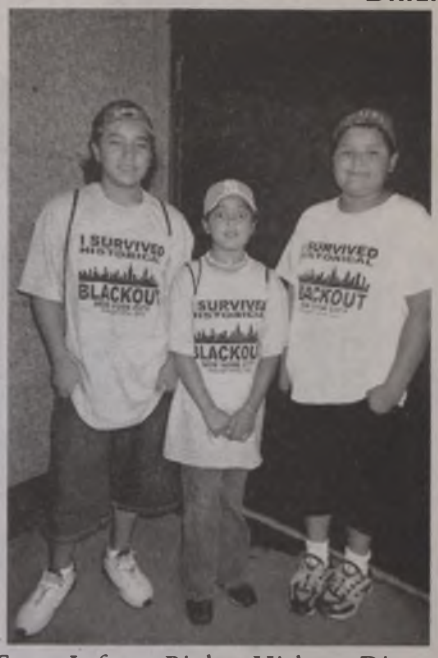
Webb said he wasn't scared, he knew precisely how to deal with these types of situations, "I'm used to blackouts, it's a regular occurrence up north."

In related news, there is expected to be a boom in births nine months from now, thanks to the blackout.

Eyewitness report

Hicham: We just got back from The Empire State Building to have our supper at Applebee's just next door to our hotel room at Hilton Times Square when the power went off. It was around 5 pm, at first I thought it was just a power off for a few minutes, but then I realized it was a blackout when the lights didn't go on that night. Our hotel had generator, so we didn't have to worry about going up and down 38 floors. It was exciting to see all this happening, I saw it in the movie but this was real, a lot of people in the streets waiting for the power to go on, people honking their cars, sirens from fire trucks, police, ambulance, you name it. We had to stay another night because the bus terminal was closed, and I was hoping there would be another blackout before we took the midnight bus on Saturday back to Montreal, but, it didn't happen. I'll never forget it and I'm glad I was there.

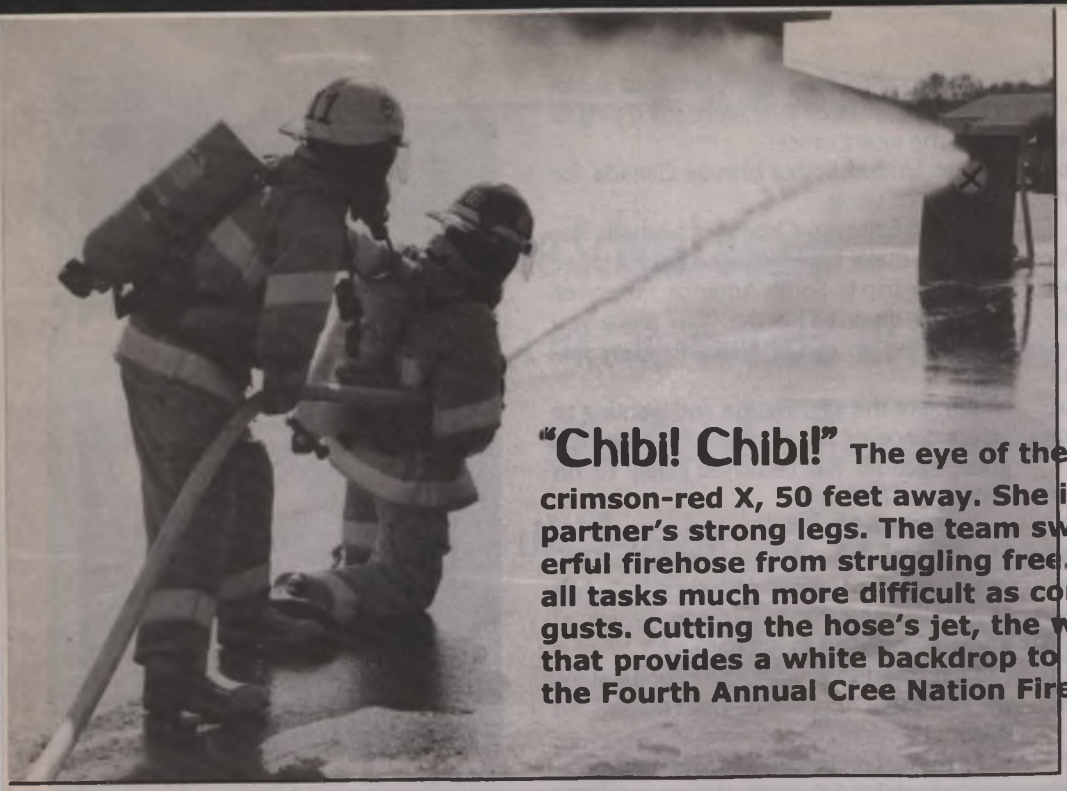
Amira: I was a little scare thinking of 9/11. I thought maybe it was terrorist attack again. I wanted to call my grandma (Goo Goo Jen), but a lot of people were using the phones and some didn't work. My mother told me it was okay, it wasn't a terrorist attack, it was something that broke and it had to be fixed, I felt better. Phew. But I was still scared to go to the washroom in the dark. Thanks to my brother Hicham and my cousin Dakota, they escorted me to the washroom every time I said "Securities."



From Left to Right: Hicham Djemai, Amira Djemai and Dakota Gunner (all from Mistissini Lake)

They're my heros. I was scared when we went out again to see what was going on. This is something that I have to talk about in school. I know they won't believe me, but, I was there.

Dakota: It was my first time in New York City and it was a great experience to be there during the blackout. We went out at 7 pm to see what was going on in the streets. There were a lot of people, the stores were closed and it was hot, it was hard to find cold drinks and their ice creams were melting, I think they were giving it away for free. We went back to our room when it got dark, and I was glad because I got a little scared out there. We were sitting by the window from the 38th floor of our hotel room. A lot of people (I mean a lot) in the streets with flashlights on. It was crazy. I can't wait to go back to Mistissini and tell my friends this story. Hicham, Amira and I wished there would be another blackout before we went back to Montreal. But, our wish didn't come true. One thing I felt bad about is my video camera, we couldn't recharge the battery.



CREE NAT CHALL

"Chibi! Chibi!" The eye of the firefighter focuses on the crimson-red X, 50 feet away. She is crouched in front of her partner's strong legs. The team sweats to keep the thick powerful firehose from struggling free. A strong side wind makes all tasks much more difficult as competitors must adjust for the gusts. Cutting the hose's jet, the wind creates a wall of mist that provides a white backdrop to the festivities . Welcome to the Fourth Annual Cree Nation Firefighters Challenge.

A PHOTOJOURNALISM ESSAY BY DANIELLE VALADE

The three-day event hosted by Waswanipi was fun for everyone. The competition began August 21 with events such as the S.C.B.A. Relay, Dual 38mm Attack Line and the Highflow Knockdown. Competitions on the Saturday were the prelude to a banquet where the winners were presented, and everyone took part in a Super Draw. The prizes were impressive, including a Jet Boat, an ATV, a satellite phone and CB radios.

But the core here is the firefighters. Said organizer Ian Oblin: "It is really good to see all the Cree Nation firefighters get together, having a little challenge and enjoying themselves at the same time. Firefighters working as a team is so important and that's what you see here in those events." Those of us watching these strong competitors see even more; we see the guts they have, we feel their pride. We feel their desire to do their best. We witness their skills and their drive. And they inspire us.

The Cree Nation's fire departments started budding in the mid-1970s. Firefighting equipment was so basic that (back then) fires were fought with buckets. As the communities grew the departments acquired some pumper trucks and now they are fully equipped to work as independent fire departments performing all types of rescue on land, water, highway, search and rescue and house fires. All personnel are first respondent's capable of administering first aid and CPR. They work in teams of six to ten on a 7/7 shift, 24 hours on call.

ION FIREFIGHTERS
ENGE 2003

Women's Team of Wemindji

Charles House of Chisasibi

More and more women are joining the rank of Cree firefighters. This increase is due to good promotions from within the departments and by having great strong female role models as shown by their tremendous performance at this event.

There were prizes for the teams that were the fastest, most accurate, and could carry the greatest weight. But everyone was a winner at this event as crews and spectators laughed and learned.

Wemindji's Wilfred Georgekish

Wemindji's boys
Victor Blackned & Lindy Georgekish a.k.a. Mr Smooth

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Team Nemaska - Men

Team Chisasibi - Women

The list of winners include: For individual achievement for women - Delana Blackned from Wemindji and for the men - Arnold Blueboy from Waskaganish. The most disciplined teams were the Wemindji women and the men from Chisasibi.

The overall winners were again the women of Wemindji and the men of Waskaganish. Wemindji had the luck of the draw and will host the 2004 edition of the competition.

Two women from Team Mistissini / Ouje

Mistissini Fire Chief Matthew Gunner summed up the event well. "You all are gaining knowledge through experience, that's what you've been doing in those competitions," he said. "Challenging yourself to be a better firefighter and a better being." His words reflected the sentiment of most of us witnessing the determination and courage of these women and men; there was admiration in the eyes of the children and adults alike.

Team Waswanipi #1 - Men accompanied by Sparky

As the crowd dispersed and walked out in the frigid starry night at the close of the banquet, the siren at the fire station resounded in the night. The flashing light of the fire truck propeled a chill in the air. The call is on — the firefighters speed away in the dark.

Guatemala: Primal beauty

Part 2 of 2

This is a continuation of last weeks focus on eco tourism of the Indigenous peoples of Guatemala.

CDRO – Totonicapan

CDRO (cooperacion para el desarollo rural de occidente) was set up to support Indigenous projects in the Totonicapan area of Guatemala in the early 1980s. At the time, Guatemala's civil war was having a major effect on commerce of all types across the country.

This was especially true in the Indigenous sector. At that time, most peasants were accused of being communists, thus starting up any type of business in the highlands proved impossible.

A lot has changed since the civil war and the McCarthy era. The peace agreement signed in 1996 has enabled the country to move forward in all aspects of life.

CDRO traces its roots back to 1984 when an organization called "US Aid" was looking to fund an Indigenous entity for a pilot project to help the native peoples develop their own businesses and improve their quality of life. Based on the results of US Aid's evaluation of the project, they decided to increase the activity and help to promote in other areas. Through this expansion, CDRO was able to get involved in the corporate, health, and women's sectors.

In 1987, they were integrated as a national association. They were now entitled to receive monies donated from abroad and be legally protected at the same time. This was an important step towards gaining nationwide respect and recognition.

At the end of the 80s, and early 90s, they started to promote economically productive projects in order to increase the income of the communities. These projects included agricultural aspects, carpentry, and medicinal plant research. CDRO wanted to be free of any link with donors and become independently viable. They got involved with micro credit and communal bank projects. At the same time they were facing the problem that due to the overall poverty of the community, it wasn't possible to charge enough interest on the loans in order to sustain and develop.

At the beginning, they offered loans for less than the national interest rate. Every year, the people involved in the micro credit project increased. They didn't base the development in the amount of money made, but the quantity of people involved.

The solution for that problem was to have links with other institutions, not only locally but internationally. Donations gave way to loans and CDRO was well on its way to becoming a self-sustaining entity.

Steve Bonspiel recently traveled to Guatemala to study indigenous economic initiatives, eco-tourism projects in particular.

Produced with the support of the Government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

Today CDRO has been transformed into more of a technical advisor for Totonicapan's native communities. They are there to guide the communities, to orient them, to train them and to find economic support. It's important because it makes the communities more comfortable and more confident in developing by themselves.

There are 23 communities involved in this project under CDRO, with each community represented by a council. Their enterprises range from agriculture, to traditional medicinal plants, to handicrafts. CDRO doesn't suggest which projects to develop; they merely oversee the operation until the people of the community are ready to take the reins.

CDRO also supports little *tiendas* (stores) to promote income. They lend money to start the business at a low interest rate.

As successful as CDRO has been on the local level, the projects they sponsor are still struggling for recognition on the international level.

For instance, medicinal plants are currently only sold locally, because they have to complete certain requirements for exportation. They are in the midst of investing in a specific laboratory for quality control in order to export to other countries. The quality and the purity of the plants is a lingering question mark on the international market.

As far as the textiles are concerned, they are having problems with the colours. They were using chemical colours and the market wanted them to change to natural dyes. They are in the process of making the switch.

These are just some of the problems that they've had to deal with in order to compete in today's fiercely competitive market.

CDRO is there to support projects and get them off the ground, but they also want to make sure that they promote cultural aspects, and integrate them into the projects.

Recycling plant in San Juan La Laguna

There is a very interesting project happening in San Juan la Laguna. A group of local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that are working to develop the community, as well as municipal officials, and local groups have gotten together to clean up the town.

The idea is to get a recycling operation going in order to develop tourism, and at the same time help the coffee producers. In order for the coffee plantations to be more successful on the international market, they must rid their fields of garbage to avoid contamination.

This is easier said then done. San Juan is a very dirty place by North American standards. Garbage is literally strewn about all over the place. People have no place to put their garbage, and there is no waste collection, or recycling depot. In order for tourism to strive, the town needs a better, cleaner image.

The solution was to get the aforementioned groups together and form a committee which works towards ridding the town of waste, and helps to develop eco tourism in San Juan.

This project is still in the very early stages. A representative from the committee, known as Solar, went to the Japanese and Canadian embassies to secure funding for the project.

The Japanese embassy was willing to donate $40,000 US dollars towards the building of the plant. The Canadian embassy was more interested in the education factor, so they decided to focus on making sure the children receive the proper education in dealing with the clean up, while making the younger population conscious of the need to properly deal with waste.

The youth has to take charge and steer in the right direction. The cleanliness of the town and their future depends on it.

The municipality has title to the land where the plant is to be built, but construction has been rather slow. This

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is partly due to the effect that the rain has had on the access road, turning it to mud.

The committee is made up of seven members, including the mayor himself. Once the project gets under way, there will be one representative from Japan and one from the local sector who will oversee it.

Before the recycling plant is up and running, there are workshops planned to educate the town in separating the plastic, glass, metal and paper. Some of this garbage can also be sold as fertilizer to the local coffee plantations.

During the first six months the plant is open, the expenses will far outweigh the profit, and the plant will have to rely heavily on donations. After that, Solar is confident it can become self-sustaining and they already have a market for most of the recyclable material.

The coffee plantations, run by a cooperative group who call themselves "the boys who call from the desert," exports to Elan coffee, a company in California. They are working very hard to try to get certified as a producer of natural coffee. Right now, they are producing natural coffee without chemical fertilizer, but the garbage is what scares off potential clients.

In order to be more recognized and respected on the international level, getting rid of the garbage around the plantations is an absolute must.

The plant itself is designed to operate in the simplest way, so there won't be confusion if one of the highly trained technicians decide to leave. Essentially, there won't be a need for highly skilled workers, thus opening up the plant to a large part of the town's population. In all, they expect 10-15 people from the community to work in this plant.

There are a few other projects in San Juan that go hand in hand with the recycling effort. Pedro Sumoza, the president of the local eco tourism initiative, is trying to get a few of those projects off the ground in order to attract more tourists.

One of the projects currently in operation is a tree nursery. They are hoping to grow native species of trees to be planted in the coffee plantations. European and North American importers fully support reforestation of native species in the coffee plantations because their clients prefer shade grown coffee. This type of coffee sells for more money on the international market. Once they get enough native species in the plantations and the garbage is cleaned up, the coffee plants will be fully certified by the Smithsonian Institute.

Right now there is a team that's being put together, consisting of people from the ministry of environment, protected areas council, ministry of agriculture, several local NGOs with specialties in education, health, and environment, as well as local groups of midwives and painters. Solar helped this group establish small enterprises that are tourism based. Once the town is clean, this group will share in the benefits that eco tourism will most surely bring to this village of 2000 inhabitants.

Fog Water Collectors – San Lucas Tolimán

In San Lucas, we visited an organization that is trying to effectively deal with the poor quality of water in the highlands of Guatemala. The reason for the poor quality of water is because over the years, there was no proper sewage system available to the people. The end result during the rainy season was that everything would get washed into the lake.

That is the main reason why the ad hoc Fog Water Group began studying ways of collecting the fog in the mountains and transferring it to liquid form into a filtering tank. They then plan on using that water for mainly agriculture purposes.

The group got the idea from a couple of NGOs in France and Canada (Fog Quest) who had successfully tested this in genius method. Closer to home, there is a successful initiative running in Peru and they are studying it to see how it can work for them.

Guy St.-Julien, DÉPUTÉ/M.P.
ABITIBI - BAIE JAMES - NUNAVIK

Dear Mr Moses and family,

We were grieved to hear your sad news. May the memory of happy moments shared with your loved one, help you to endure this great loss.

My deepest sympathies to you and your family.

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Dear Ted,
I was saddened to hear about the death of your son, Reginald Moses. On behalf of the members of my staff, I would like to express our sincere sympathy in your time of mourning.

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A la famille du Dr Ted Moses.

Je me le fais porte-parole du conseil municipal, du personnel et de la population de La Sarre pour vous exprimer notre profonde sympathie suite au décès de votre fils. Soyez assuré que nous sommes avec vous de tout cœur pour vous supporter moralement dans cette épreuve.

Le maire
J. Horace Lessard

Le maire
J. Horace Lessard

Ville d'Amos

Mes collègues du conseil municipal s'unissent à moi pour transmettre, à la famille de monsieur Ted Moses, nos pensées les plus profondes de sympathie en ces jours de peine.

La perte d'un fils crée un grand vide au sein de sa famille, voire de sa communauté, et nous voulons vous témoigner nos sentiments les plus chaleureux en cette période difficile à traverser.

Le Maire,
Ulrick Chérubin

In November 2003, the NGO from Canada has offered to send an envoy of people to teach the organization in Guatemala how to capture the fog and process it.

This initiative came about to serve the communities close to the volcanoes high in the mountains. These communities don't have water at this point. The villagers used to be able to get water from the lake, but the government now forbids that.

The government restricts the water to locals because they see this natural resource as a means to attract tourists. So they cut off the people's supply in order to boost tourism in the region.

The uncontaminated fog water can be used for many different purposes. The water collected will be used for agriculture, to wash dishes and to bathe.

This endeavor will go a long way towards combating the negative effects contaminated water from the lake has had on the local Indigenous populations.

All in all, the Guatemalan people proved to be quite friendly and helpful in my quest to learn more about them and their country. Indigenous eco tourism is not just a catchphrase in this country. Developing eco tourism ventures is a reality and is a great example to other native peoples around the world in how to sustain and develop successfully.

The social problems here aren't half as bad as they were during the civil war. The people understand that in order to build Guatemala for the future, they must work hand in hand, nation to nation.

Beesum communications and The Nation magazine would like to thank the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for their support in making this project a reality. Without them, this story would not have been possible.

Dear Ted Moses and Family,

My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family during this time of sadness.

My deepest sympathy for the loss of your son Reginald.

Phil Fontaine, Grand Chief

Assembly of First Nations

Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue

Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue wishes to express their heartfelt sympathy and support to Grand Chief Ted Moses during this very difficult period.

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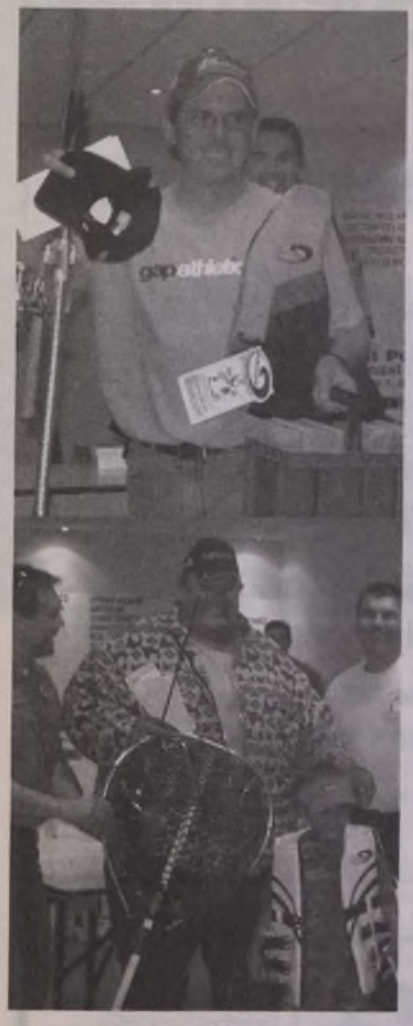

MISTISSINI POLICE SERVICE
7TH ANNUAL FISHING DERBY WINNERS

Mistissini Police would like to present to you the **official results** for the 7th Annual Fishing Derby which was held on August 22, 23, 24, 2003. We would like to express our gratitude to the participants for their continued support to the community. This event would not have been possible if we had not had such a good response from our sponsors. We had approx. over $ 10 000 in prizes to be won. This year, we made $3 850 in donations from the registered participants and we have donated the amount to the new elders home.

MISTISSINI POLICE SERVICE 7TH ANNUAL FISHING DERBY WINNERS

Pike

1st - 23.5 lbs
Samuel Mianscum
2nd - 18.8 lbs
Clifford Neeposh Jr.
3rd - 17.4 lbs
Nigel Gunner

Walleye

1st - 4.5 lbs
John Quinn
2nd - 3.1 lbs
Christopher Quinn
3rd - 3.0 lbs
Luke Macleod

Lake Trout

1st – 13.2 lbs
George Sheppard
2nd - 8.2 lbs
Harriet Brien
3rd - 5.1 lbs
Kenny Neeposh

Speckled Trout

1st -5.0 lbs.
Samuel Mianscum
2nd - 4.8 lbs.
Gerald Coonishish
3rd - 3.8 lbs.
Michael Prince

Combined Weight

Pike:	23.5 lbs.
Walleye :	1.4 lbs.
LakeTrout	3.9 lbs.
Speckled Trout:	5.0 lbs.
Total:	33.8 lbs.

Winner:
Samuel Mianscum

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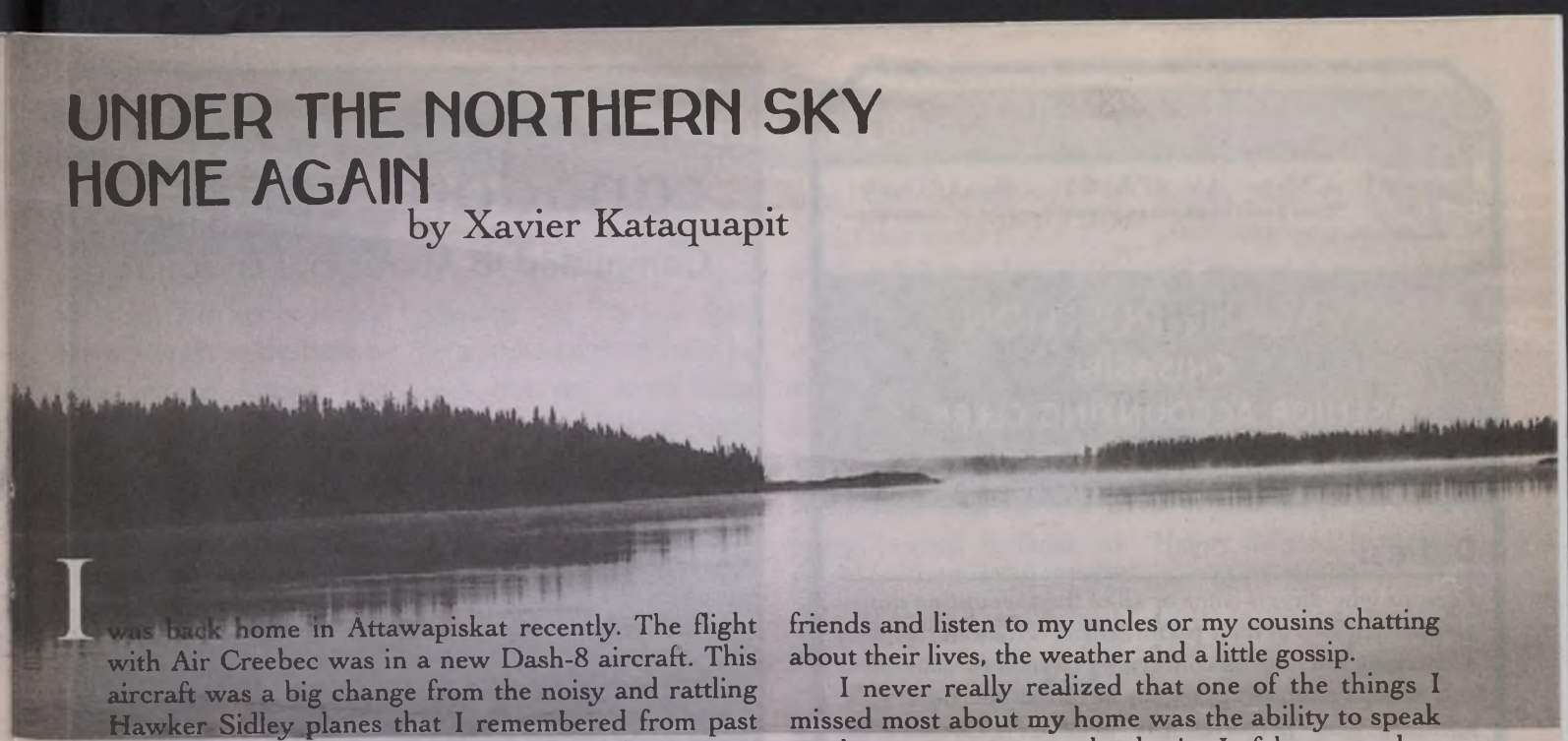

I was back home in Attawapiskat recently. The flight with Air Creebec was in a new Dash-8 aircraft. This aircraft was a big change from the noisy and rattling Hawker Sidley planes that I remembered from past trips home. This flight was quiet and happily uneventful except for the fact that I met so many people I had not seen for a long time.

Luckily, I ended up sitting next to George Wesley of Kashechewan First Nation who is an Elder and political leader in his community and also with Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN). He was flying home after attending meetings with NAN. On our way back up north he told me stories of his life up the coast and he talked about people and places I had heard of while growing up in my own community. It was good to speak Cree with all the people I met on the flight home.

On my arrival I was greeted by almost my entire family. They were surprised and happy at my last-minute decision to head home for a holiday. The welcome started with a tour of the community. I must admit I felt as though I had never left.

I was happy to find that Nokoom, my grandmother Louise, was now living with my parents. She was quietly knitting in her room when I arrived. Nokoom was equally happy to see me and stopped to show me all the craftwork she had accomplished in the last while. I was surprised to find a whole container full of the little mitts she was making. The house felt better with Nokoom around.

One of my first duties was to repair some leaky tires on my dad's truck so that I could count on it on my travels through town. On my journey I visited old friends and all my aunts and uncles. It felt great to see everyone again but I was also sad at times to realize that some of the old familiar faces I grew up with were now gone.

There were times as I made my way through familiar places, I felt like I had never left Attawapiskat. The weather was great during my visit and on several occasions in mid morning when the town was quiet I was content to simply sit out in the sun with family and friends and listen to my uncles or my cousins chatting about their lives, the weather and a little gossip.

I never really realized that one of the things I missed most about my home was the ability to speak my language on a regular basis. It felt so good to express myself in my own language everywhere I went. As I traveled through town I took my nieces and nephews with me to meet some of our Elders. I spent a lot of my time with my nephew Philip, who is a quiet and witty 10-year-old boy. He is big for his age but has a kind and gentle personality.

We visited the local Catholic Church and sat with Father Vezina. I have recognized him as part of our church for as long as I can remember. While we were there we saw another sight that takes place every year near the church. A group of young teenagers had been hired by Father Vezina to cut the lawn. I never had the opportunity to do this while I was a teenager but some of my brothers did. I asked these boys if I could take a photo of them and they immediately withdrew. To get my photo, I made an agreement to buy them all cold drinks. When I came back with cold pop, they were all happy to take a break from the hot weather and cool down in the shade of the towering church.

I met so many people and had many interesting and valuable conversations. One particular meeting lingers in my mind. The day before my departure, I visited the bank of the river to get a last look at the Attawapiskat River before leaving town. I met Angela Metat, a local Elder and we stood on the high bank admiring the view of the river during low tide. She confided in me that this sight has always been comforting to her. She talked about so many memories that had to do with the river. As I listened to her I could imagine her as a young girl coming to the bank in a canoe with her family in the excitement of setting up the summer camp. It got me thinking of my own memories of the river and I look forward to the next time I can look out from the bank to watch the waves roll in.

Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de la Baie James
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Specific Conditions and Qualifications:

- College degree (D.E.C.) Administration - major in Finance or accounting
- Two (2) years relevent experience
- Bilingual (French & English)
- Knowledge of payroll systems in general
- Salary: $602.00 (minimum) to $725.20 (maximum)

Working Conditions:

- Salary and conditions according to the Collective Agreement - CSN
- Isolation allowance of $6,773. To $10,834. (with or without dependants)
- Three or four sorties per year (with or without dependants)
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The persons interested in this position are asked to forward their résumé by September 11, 2003 to:

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CLASSIFIEDS

100 – BIRTHS

Congratulations to my sister Angie and her boyfriend Mario Rupert on the birth of their son on August 11th 2003. My nephew was so cute the first time I saw him. I took so many pictures of him. And don't forget, I love my nephew so much. From Mary-Jane Otter (Waswanipi)

I would like to welcome a baby boy who came in this world on August 11th 2003 at 11:17. But at that time I was locked up, you know where. Right sis, lol... Oops forgot to mention his weight: 8 lbs 11 oz. So Angie and Mario, take good care of your son. I was so happy when I saw my nephew. Love you sister, Mary-Jane Otter.

101 – BIRTHDAYS

Birthday greetings going out to my niece Paulina Lameboy on August 26 (wask). Cheer up! Don't let anything bring you down, no matter what life may throw at you, don't let it get you down. You're smart, funny, pretty, and young so have fun on your special day. Again Happy Birthday and I love ya! From your auntie Barbs (wask)

I wanna wish Happy Birthday to my sister Lucie Lameboy (wask) on August 28 and to my brother Raymond Hester (wask) on August 29th. You guys can relax, you both are kinda old to party! (Just kidding!) Whatever you've got planned, have fun and don't let anyone spoil it! Love ya both. Glad you are my sister and brother. From your baby sister Barbs!

I wanna wish a very belated Happy Birthday to a special friend Elaine Blueboy (Aug. 5). Sorry I wasn't there to wish you Happy Birthday before. Our friendship is a promise spoken only by the heart it is a promise that is renewed everytime two friends meet and smile and enjoy the good times that come from simply being together a promise to share both good and bad times, a promise that is always kept by love. It's wonderful to have a friend with whom you feel at ease, and let's you be exactly who you are. I'm glad to have you as a friend. I love you! From your friend Barbs (wask)

We would like to say a happy birthday to Yolanda Shashaweskum from Wemindji on August 29th,2003. Once again HAPPY BIRTHDAY GIRL.... From: all the people who lives in 54 beaver rd in Wemindji

We would like to say a happy belated birthday to my cuz Reshawn Matoush on August 22,2003. Hey Reshawn Pooh we are so sorry that we couldn't be there on your birthday. At least we remembered it okay. Once again HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY RESHAWN. And we love you very much & miss you so much. From: Someone in Wemindji XoXoXoXo

We would like to say a happy belated birthday to Marilyn Shashaweskum from Wemindji on August 20,2003. Once again HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY MARILYN. From: Someone in Wemindji at 54 Beaver Rd.

Wishing a Happy 1st Birthday to our son Zechariah Adam Moore on September 5th 2003. Can't wait to see you put out your first candle and open your first birthday gift. It seems like yesterday when the doctor put you in my arms and seeing Daddy jumping around, saying it's a goalie. Remember that we love you very much, which we tell you each and everyday. With lots of hugs and kisses from your Mom and Dad, Jessicah Moore and Ira Gunner.

Wishing a belated 1st Birthday to Josie-Ann and Jacey-lye Otter on August 23rd 2003. Hoping you gals had a blast on your birthday and many more wonderful birtdays to come. From your friend Zechariah Moore and my Mommy and Daddy too.

Happy 25th Birthday to a very special daughter and friend, Michelle Hester, who celebrates her big day on August 26th. Keep up your good work as a Mom, wife and student. I am so proud of you & I love you so dearly. Xoxoxo to Miranda & Brendon in N.B. All my love from Mom in Waskaganish.

I would like to wish a Happy Belated Birthday to my best friend Charlene Gull in Waswanipi. Her birthday is on August 20th 2003. Sorry I couldn't be there on your special day. Hope your day will be special as you are. I do care about you cause you are my best friend and I thank God dor gaving me a friend like you are. I'm thinking of you on your special day and hope you enjoyed it. I can't wait to see you again. Thank you for always being there for me. From your best friend always, in Waskaganish, Marlene.

Happy Birthday to my wife Shirley B. Moar who's birthday is on August 26th 2003. We just celebrated our 22nd Anniversary on August 14th and now celebrating your birthday! ...Wow, I like the month of August... I love you with all my heart, love always, your husband Bert W. Moar.

Happy Birthday to a daughter, Michelle Shirley-Ann Hester who's birthday is on August 26th 2003. You were so tiny...now look at you, you're a grown, mature woman with two beautiful children and a husband. I'm

proud of you. I guess that means I did my job well! I love you and keep up the good work. Remembering you in prayers always, your Dad Bert.

102 – WEDDINGS

We would like to congratulate Mr & Mrs Dale Petawabano, on their wedding on August 23rd 2003 in Chibougamau. Angela, your wedding was as beautiful as you are. It was perfect. May God bless you and keep you both in His care. May you enjoy your life together. Love and prayers, Melanie and Sinclair Neeposh (Selena, Serena & Starr) xoxoxo Waswanipi.

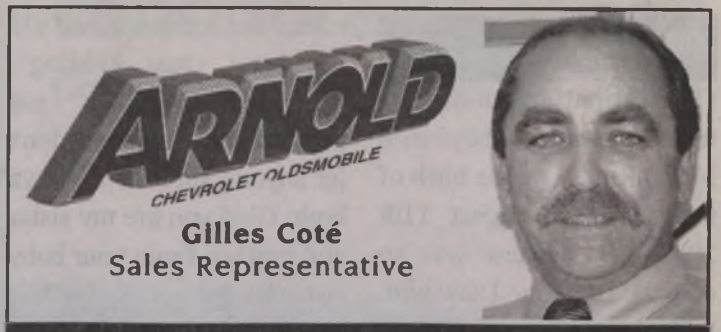
I would like to congratulate Angel & Dale Petawabano. Finally hein? Angel, you've been planning this wedding since last year, and you're finally Mrs. Angela Petawabano. Thank you very much for asking me to be a flower girl, your wedding was so perfect and beautiful. May God bless you both, and enjoy your life together as one. Love and prayers, Selena Gull (flower girl) xoxox Waswanipi

I would like to send all my wishes and all my love to my Godmother Angela Petawabano and her husband Dale Petawabano. For their recent wedding on August 23rd 2003. I am sorry I couldn't give you a kiss and a hug, I was worried that I might mess up your hair and dirty your dress. I know in my heart that God will keep you both safe and you guys will spend your life together as one forever. I love you Angela & Dale. With all my love and prayers, your godson, Starr Ethan Neeposh xoxoxo

300 – PERSONALS

Congratulations to very special boy in our lifes; Silas Blackned from Nemaska. He has accomplished on being the Cree Nation Fitness Challenge Boy's Mini Champion 2003 on July 26, 2003 in the heart of the Cree Nation. Good luck on upcoming hockey tryouts. From the Blackned family in Nemaska.

Wachiya. On behalf of the Cree School Board students and Cree School Board Student Association (CSBSA) of North Bay, Ontario. In recognition and great appreciation we want to thanks all the contributors for their generous contribution for the students of North Bay. We the students and families alike had the pleasure to enjoy activities and events during our educational year, 2002-03. Thus, which led to less boredom and from missing our families back home. In closing, thanks again for your contributions. Sincerely, Cree School Board Students and Cree School Board Association of North Bay.



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On behalf of Chief Robert Weistche and Council

Congratulations to the Waskaganish Fire Department for coming in 1st Place at the 4th Annual Firefighters Competition

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE
QUÉBEC

À mon ami Ted Moses et à sa famille,

La perte d'un être cher, d'un fils, crée un vide immense et est une épreuve difficile à comprendre.

Réginald Moses avait toute la vie devant lui. Il nous était permis d'espérer, pour lui, le meilleur. Malgré la douleur, il faut maintenant retrouver la sérénité et la paix.

Je formule le souhait que vous trouviez, dans les liens d'amitié profonds qui unissent nos deux nations, tout le soutien nécessaire pour surmonter cette peine.

Mon cher ami, je partage votre souffrance et mes pensées de réconfort vous accompagnent en ces jours de peine.

En mon nom personnel et au nom de ma formation politique, mes sincères condoléances,

Bernard Landry
Chef de l'opposition officielle

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